



KUSKOKWIM RIVER

NEWS RELEASE 2



ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH & GAME

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subsistence Salmon Fishing Schedule Continues in the Kuskokwim River June 11

Kuskokwim River Subsistence Fishing Schedule for June 11 to June 17

Dates	Sunday June 11	Monday June 12	Tuesday June 13	Wednesday June 14	Thursday June 15	Friday June 16	Saturday June 17
Closed Area	From Chuathbaluk Downstream	From Chuathbaluk Downstream	From Chuathbaluk Downstream	No Closed Area	No Closed Area	No Closed Area	No Closed Area
Open Area	From Chuathbaluk Upstream	From Chuathbaluk Upstream	From Chuathbaluk Upstream	Entire Kuskokwim River Open	Entire Kuskokwim River Open	Entire Kuskokwim River Open	Entire Kuskokwim River Open

The Kuskokwim River subsistence salmon fishing schedule, which has been in effect since the 2001 season, will be in effect again during the 2006 season. The schedule continues for the week of June 11 through June 17 with the closed period affecting only that portion of the Kuskokwim River downstream from the community of Chuathbaluk. Although inconvenient to fishers, compliance to the schedule has provided for achievement of chinook and chum salmon escapement goals and has spread subsistence harvest opportunity among all subsistence users throughout the drainage. The schedule provides “windows” of time when no fishing occurs so that portions of the salmon run can migrate upriver with less harvest. The schedule applies only to subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and fish wheels. The schedule allows four (4) consecutive days of subsistence fishing per week from Wednesday through Saturday. Subsistence fishers have been able to meet their harvest needs following the schedule.

For the coming week, subsistence salmon fishing will be closed from Chuathbaluk downstream to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River beginning 12:01 a.m. Sunday, June 11 and ending 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, June 13. All gillnets with mesh greater than four-inches must be pulled from the water and fish wheels must be stopped within this area during this time period. Salmon spawning tributaries closed to subsistence fishing during the June 11 through June 13 closed period are the Eek, Kwethluk, Kisaralik, Kasigluk, Tuluksak, and Aniak Rivers. That portion of the Kuskokwim River downstream of Chuathbaluk will reopen to subsistence salmon fishing from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 14. If inseason run assessment indicates Chinook salmon

escapements will be achieved, it is anticipated that the schedule will be discontinued after 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 14. Subsistence salmon fishing with hook-and-line gear (rod and reel) is not affected by the schedule and is allowed 7 days per week in all waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fishing for fish other than salmon will be allowed only with hook-and-line gear and gillnets with four-inch or smaller mesh that are 60 feet or less in length. However, subsistence salmon regulations will not apply to fishing for fish other than salmon in non-salmon tributaries 100 yards upstream from their confluence with the Kuskokwim River. Non-salmon tributaries in the Kuskokwim River include the Whitefish Lake drainage near Aniak; Discovery, Birch, and Swift Creeks; and the Gweek, Johnson, Kinak, Kialik, and Tagayarak Rivers.

This subsistence-fishing schedule is part of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan (05 AAC 07.365). Through your cooperation, this plan was successful during the 2001 through 2005 seasons. It provided for good overall escapements and spread subsistence opportunity throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage.

Fishers are reminded that they should consult both State of Alaska fishing regulations and Federal Subsistence Management regulations for federal waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII before fishing on the Kuskokwim River. For further information regarding federal regulations please call 1-800-478-1456.

This has been a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.